

THE RUSSIANS IN NORTH-CHINA

A correspondent now at Moulken who it must be frankly confessed, has nothing of the Rosaphil about him, writes that he has seen a plan of the proposed Russian railway from western Siberia, east of the Lakes, *via* Kincta and Ugra to Peking. He says that the Russians have made the survey for this railway, and are working on it from the Trans-Siberian railway, and they intend to complete the railway first at the most important, while continuing their work on the Manchurian line. He says h

understand that our Government would prevent Russia taking Peking. The Manchurian railway is going on very slowly and is carelessly built; the telegraph wires are up, but so far very little work has been done. The Russians are getting on with the bridges, wooden ones, and are preparing the timber and piles for the bridges across the river to Moukden but up to the present no work has been done on it. Our correspondent reiterates the complaints about the squeezing

Interpreters employed by the Russian soldiers who are guilty of this. Our correspondence adds that the Russian soldiers stop at the Chinese inns and go into the shops and take what they like at their own prices—sometimes without paying at all, so that the innkeepers now will not take in any foreigners if they can help it. The Russians without any official orders from the Chinese Government, and they are also trying to get other tribes in the district. The police

shot or wounded, are sent to the British missionary doctors, who do a great deal of work for the Russians. The people are ready to see the country opened and take readily to foreign things. Six new foreign shops have been opened in Munkden by Chinese from Shanghai; they are called "Shanghai Stores," etc., and everything can be bought in them, wines, stores, druggs, silks, cloths, &c. Rickshaws are also for sale, but there are none as yet plying on the streets. These shops

motely are being filtered into the foreign
style. A German firm got an order from
the Victoria the other day for 10,000 guns
and 10,000,000 cartridges. The crops look
well and the hemp is already being harvested.
Our correspondent finishes with a
note on the omnipresence of the Russian
soldier in Manchuria. His letter is dated
the 22nd of August.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

them by China very little has been written on the subject owing to its being little known nowadays to the outside world, except to junkmen trading between Hainan Island and the West Kuangtung and Tongking coasts. But in the time of the previous Ming dynasty Kuangchouwan was the headquarters of large fleets of pirates, who, by reason of their hold of the place, dominated not only the sea route north of Hainan Island, but the whole coast-line between Kuangchouwan and Tuncking. This state

centuries ago, and the French at Kuangchowuan will easily be the masters of the whole Kuangtung and Tongking coast. The Chinese know this, but they did not at the time of the French demand, and they are now trying their best to counteract the bold session of Kuangchowuan.

The Chinese claim (says the *N.-C. Daily News*) that the French demanded, at first, a lease of only 100 square of territory, and with the object of delimiting the boundaries of the ceded region, Chou; ac-

of the Kuang-ching Intendency, were sent as Commissioners to meet a French Commissioner, early this year. Arrived at Kuangchowwan, however, the Chinese Commissioners found that the French were not satisfied with the rate first demanded and, in addition, wanted an extra territory of over double the original demand. This two Tachis were not prepared to grant, but they zealously went to work to find what the French wanted such an out-of-the-way place as Kuangchowwan. Reference to

importance of the place: *vis-à-vis* Hainan Island, the Kuangtung coast, west of Lienchoo, Peninsular, and the Gulf of Tongking and it soon became apparent to the Chinese Government that any further cession of islands and territory in the vicinity of Kuangchowwan would not only make it unrecognizable from the past and mainland, but also show the whole western coast of the province as well as Hainan Island completely in the mercy of the French. With Kuangchowwan alone in the hands of the French, and the neighbouring islands and mainland in the hands of the Chinese.

with this in view, the French Government is determined to make a firm demand.

Already the Chinese Communist Government has said that the French side would give way, and this has been the reason for sending General Su to settle the question for all. The French like the General whom they style Marshal Su, as he has been very friendly, uniformly courteous, and liberal-minded in his dealings with the French on the Tungking-Kuangtung borders; the General's headquarters, being at Chungking about 200 miles to the north of Ho-

ders; while the Chinese, on the other hand, have great confidence in him as he commanded the victorious Chinese troops in the late Franco-Chinese war in 1884. As General Su has nearly 20,000 troops in the vicinity of Chingchow, who are also pretty well armed, this gives colour to the report, that the Empress Dowager's last verbal command to the General—when he left Peking last week—to fight the French if necessary without waiting for instructions from the capital.

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